



FOR RELEASE

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Labor Market Information

Job Count in Rhode Island Reaches an All-Time High in April

Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, announced today that Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 5.4 percent, reflecting a gain of 0.3 of a percentage point from March. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,800 over the month to 31,100 in April, while

	<u>Apr. 06</u>	<u>Mar. 06</u>	<u>Apr. 05</u>
Rhode Island	5.4%	5.1%	5.0%*
United States	4.7%	4.7%	5.1%*
* Revised			

the number of employed residents grew by 2,000. A year ago, the jobless level was 28,400 and the State's unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for April held steady at 4.7 percent. Compared to last year, the national jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for April remained above the national average.

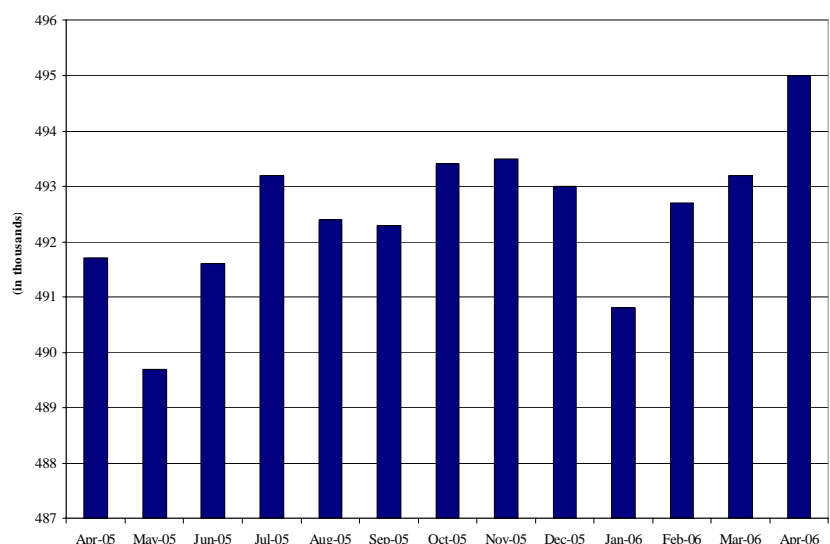
Jobs at Rhode Island businesses reached an all-time high as employment increased by 1,800 (+0.4%) last month, bringing the April job count to 495,000 (seasonally adjusted). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+900) reported the largest job gain over the month, followed by Professional & Business Services (+400), Construction (+300), Financial Activities (+300) and Government (+100). Job losses were noted in Manufacturing (-400), Educational & Health Services (-300) and Leisure & Hospitality (-100). Other Services employment remained unchanged over the month.

"The number of jobs in Rhode Island increased for the third straight month, reaching a record-high level of 495,000 in April. I am particularly pleased that the overall job growth trend continues to be so strong," said Director Orefice. "Since job growth numbers will always go up and down on a monthly basis, we must keep in mind that the overall trend is what counts. In Rhode Island, that job growth trend has been very positive, and we are confident that we will continue to grow jobs in the Ocean State."

The increase of 900 jobs in the Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector is mainly due to above-average gains in Retail Trade and Transportation & Warehousing. Professional & Business Services experienced a monthly increase of 400 workers, reflecting increased employment in Administrative & Waste Services. Employment gains in Specialty Trade Contractors pushed Construction employment to an all-time high of 23,000 workers in the state.

Over the year, total employment was up 3,300 (+0.7%) from the 491,700 jobs reported in April 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Educational & Health Services (+1,800), Professional & Business Services (+1,600), Financial Activities (+1,500), Construction (+1,200), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+400), and Government (+100) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-2,200), Other Services (-700), and Leisure & Hospitality (-400).

Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment
April 2005 to April 2006



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SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

(in thousands)

	<u>Apr-06</u>	<u>Mar-06</u>	<u>Apr-05</u>	Net Change From	
				<u>Mar-06</u>	<u>Apr-05</u>
Total Non-Farm	495.0	493.2	491.7	1.8	3.3
Construction	23.0	22.7	21.8	0.3	1.2
Manufacturing	53.4	53.8	55.6	-0.4	-2.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	80.9	80.0	80.5	0.9	0.4
Financial Activities	35.9	35.6	34.4	0.3	1.5
Professional & Business Services	56.6	56.2	55.0	0.4	1.6
Educational & Health Services	96.3	96.6	94.5	-0.3	1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	50.1	50.2	50.5	-0.1	-0.4
Other Services	22.7	22.7	23.4	0.0	-0.7
Government	65.1	65.0	65.0	0.1	0.1

Note: Data may not be additive due to the exclusion of certain industry sectors from the seasonal adjustment process.

Hours and Earnings

In April 2006, the \$13.52 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly gain of six cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of forty-eight cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.6 hours per week in April, down 1.0 hour over the month and 0.8 of an hour since April 2005.

Note: Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Data may not be additive and are subject to revision.

The unemployment figures are based largely on a survey of households in Rhode Island and measure the unemployment status of people who live in the state.

The establishment employment figures are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state.

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**Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi
The May labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, June 16, 2006.**

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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TDD (401) 462-8006

